



SOAR SYNTHESIS OF ARCTIC RESEARCH



Physics to Marine Mammals in the Pacific Arctic

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Abstract: The Synthesis of Arctic Research (SOAR) purpose is to bring together a multidisciplinary group of Arctic scientists and residents to explore and integrate information from completed and ongoing marine research in the Pacific Arctic. Supported by a MOU between BOEM-Alaska Region and NOAA-PMEL, the synthesis is guided by a 13-member Science Steering Committee formed of senior scientists and local residents with decades-long experience in ecosystem and resource management in the Pacific Arctic. The first annual meeting of the SSC was held in November.

Science themes were developed which will guide integration of research into a series of peer-reviewed publications. A larger SOAR workshop with invited contributors will be held in spring 2012. Workshop participants will inventory available data and evaluate its sufficiency to address specific cross-disciplinary hypotheses. Teams will be formed to target each science theme and will meet both independently and as a group to achieve SOAR goals. The synthesis will be completed in 2016, providing important information to management decision-makers and guiding future research activities.

Arctic Ecosystem Science

Science Objectives

Increase scientific understanding of the biophysical environment

Enhance capability to predict future conditions

Effectively transmit findings of the synthesis to local residents, resource managers, science societies, and the general public



Science Themes

Ecosystem Response to Bottom-up and/or Top-down Forcing

Marine Birds, Mammals, and Fish as Ecosystem Sentinels

Acoustic Ecology

Integration

www.arctic.noaa.gov/soar

Principal Investigators: Sue Moore and Phyllis Stabeno

Science Steering Committee

Jackie Grebmeier: Research Professor, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science; member Polar Science Board and International Arctic Research Committee

Tom Weingartner: Professor of Physical Oceanography, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Carin Ashjian: Senior Scientist with Tenure, Biology Research, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Chris Clark: Director of Bioacoustics Research, Cornell University

J. Craig George: Senior Wildlife Biologist, Department of Wildlife Management, North Slope Borough

Robert Suydam: Senior Wildlife Biologist, Department of Wildlife Management, North Slope Borough

Taqulik Hepa: Director, Department of Wildlife Management, North Slope Borough; member Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission

Vera Metcalf: Executive Director, Eskimo Walrus Commission; Native Representative, Marine Mammal Commission

Chad Jay: Research Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center

Robyn Angliss: Deputy Director, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Tim Ragen: Executive Director, Marine Mammal Commission

BOEM COR: Heather Crowley

Project Coordinator: Lisa Sheffield Guy

